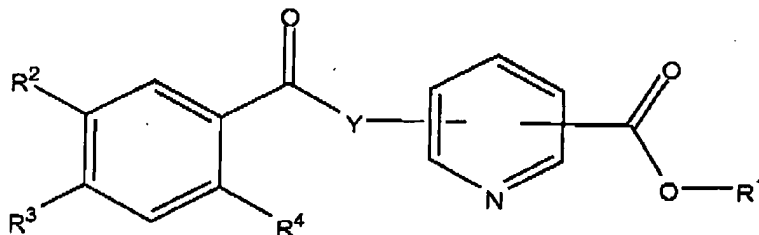


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of enhancing the stability during administration of multiple unit dosages of a compound of Formula I:



Formula I

wherein

R¹ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl;

R² is C₁₋₆-alkyl or adamantyl;

R³ is C₁₋₆-alkyl or hydroxy; or

R² and R³ taken together are -(CR⁶R⁷)_n;

R⁴ is C₂₋₈-alkyl, C₂₋₈-alkenyl, C₂₋₈-alkynyl, -OCH₂R⁵ or C₂₋₈-alkanoyl, or hydrogen when R³ is hydroxy;

R⁵ is C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl or C₂₋₆-alkynyl;

R⁶ and R⁷ are hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl;

Y is oxygen or sulfur; and

n is 3, 4, or 5,

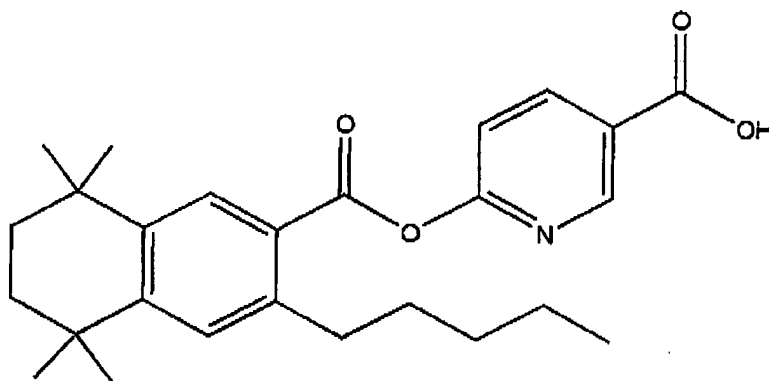
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts of carboxylic acid of formula I,

wherein said method comprises the step of admixing multiple unit dosages of said compound in solid form with a topical carrier to form a topical formulation within forty-eight hours~~seven days~~ prior to first topical administration of said formulation, and

Claims 11 – 20 (cancelled)

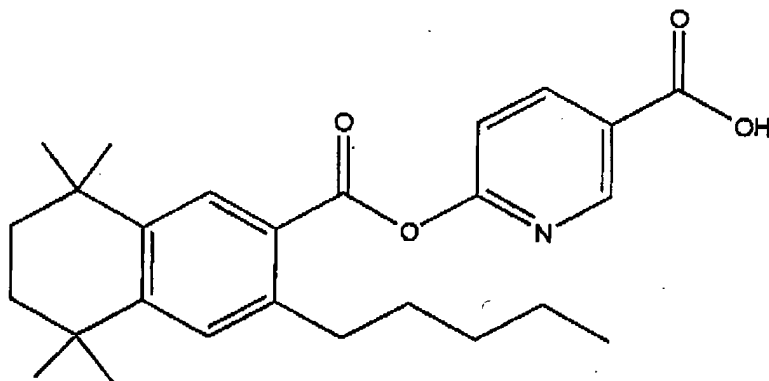
21. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises admixing said formulation comprising said compound with a cream or a gel.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 1, wherein said compound is



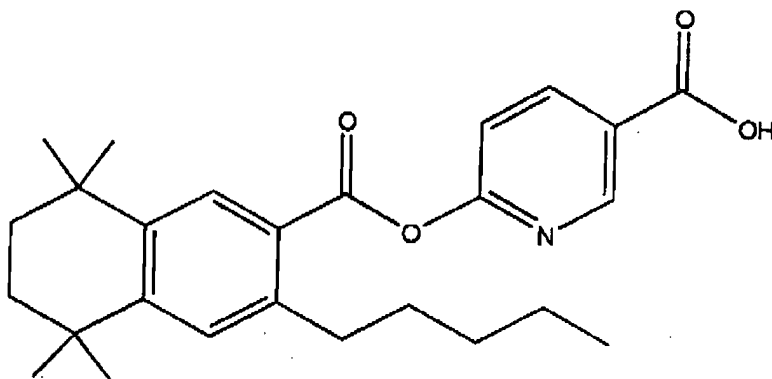
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 2, wherein said compound is



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 3, wherein said compound is

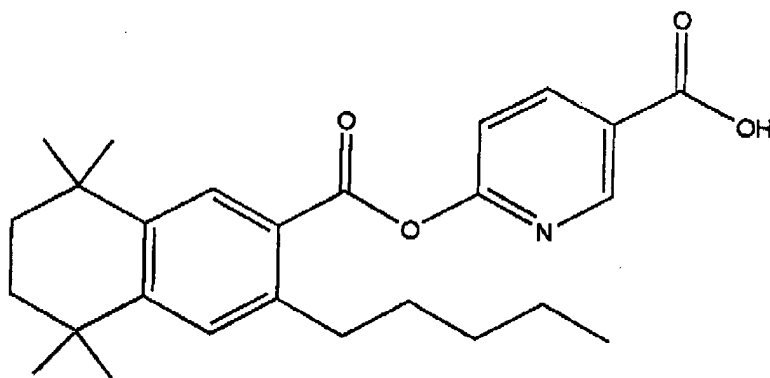


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (Canceled)

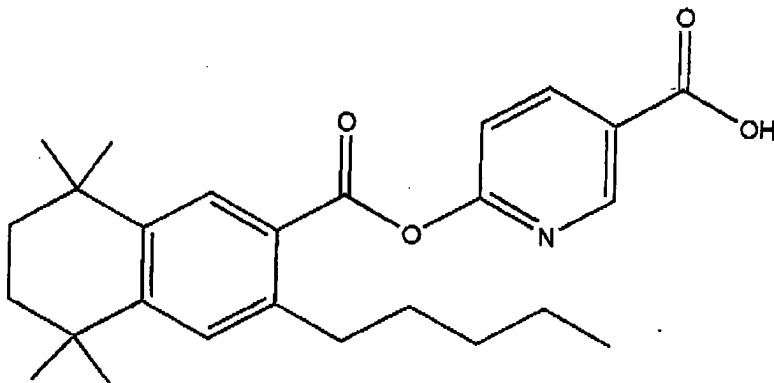
26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 6, wherein said compound is



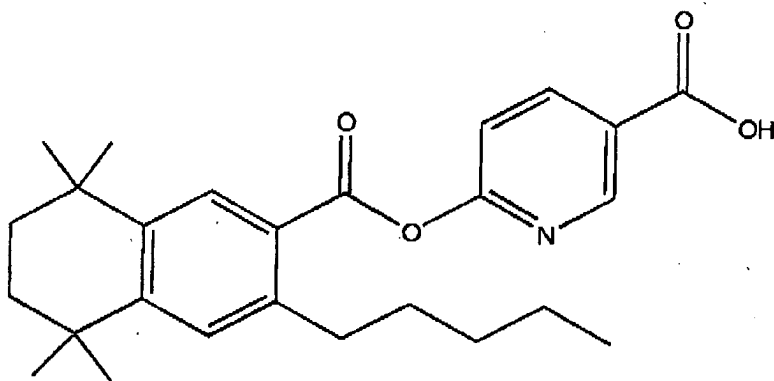
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 7, wherein said compound is



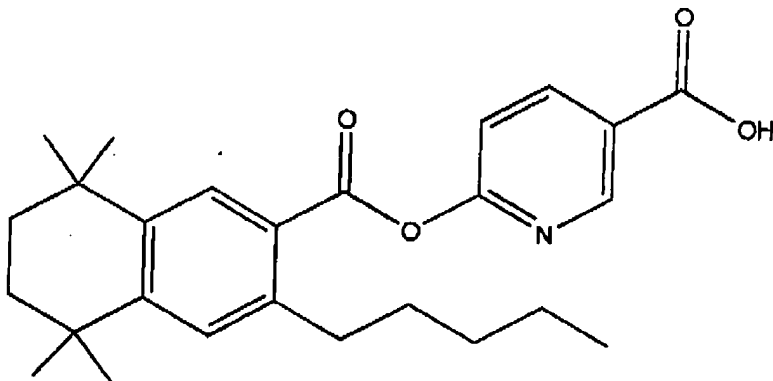
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 9, wherein said compound is



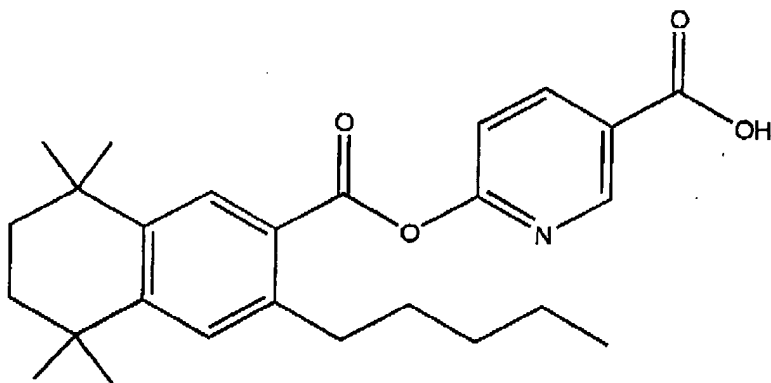
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 10, wherein said compound is



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 21, wherein said compound is

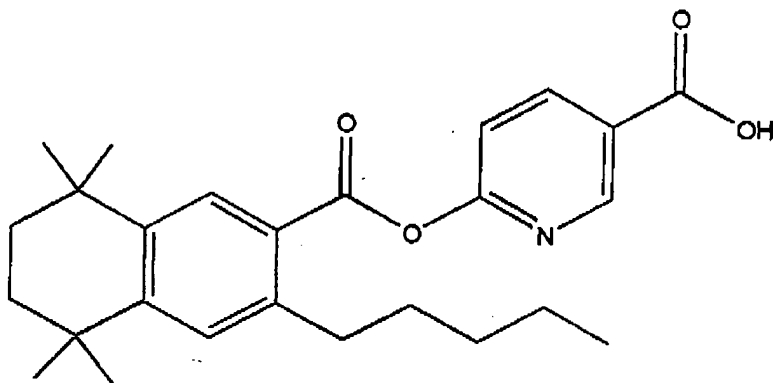


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

32. (New) A method of claim 1, wherein said topical carrier comprises a member selected from the group consisting of diisopropyl adipate, diisopropyl sebacate, diisocetyl adipate, triacetin, caprylic/capric triglyceride, and isopropyl myristate.

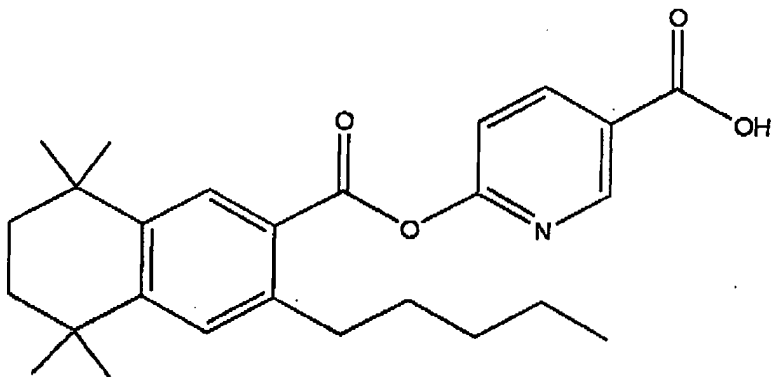
33. (New) A method of claim 32, wherein said formulation comprises about 0.01% to about 0.1%, by weight, of said compound.

34. (New) A method of claim 32, wherein said compound is



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

35. (New) A method of claim 33, wherein said compound is



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.